AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in a plurality of EGM venues, the jackpot system comprising:

    a.) a master controller located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues; and

    b.) a networked EGM installation located at each EGM venue, each networked EGM installation comprising:

        i.) a communications network;

        ii.) a network controller connected to the communications network;

        iii.) one or more EGMs eligible to participate in the jackpot system and interconnected via the communications network; to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the respective communications network of at least one of the EGM networks, each networked EGM installation further comprising

        iv.) jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs interconnected via the communications network in the respective EGM installation based on the occurrence of a predetermined trigger condition which is determined without reference to the master controller; being established, and

        v.) reporting means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate for indirect communication of gaming activity the gaming activity report to the master controller, the gaming activity report comprising:

            A.) a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a

reporting period comprising a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report, and covering game activity occurring on each of the EGMs connected to the respective networked EGM installation and eligible to participate in the jackpot system, during the reporting period,

wherein the master controller is not directly operatively connected to the communications network of at least one of the networked EGM installations, such that jackpot information is not directly exchanged between the master controller and the communication network of the at least one networked EGM installation,

and wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue ~~maintaining~~ maintains a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information communicated from the master controller to the respective networked EGM installation as a batch of data ~~transfer in response to~~ provided to each EGM venue after the master controller receives the information in the gaming activity reports ~~received by the master controller~~ from each of the EGM venues.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A jackpot system providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in an EGM venue, the system comprising:

a.) a master ~~controlled~~ controller located remotely from the EGM venue; and

b.) a networked EGM installation located at the EGM venue, the networked EGM installation comprising:

i.) one or more EGMs connected via a communications network to a network controller, wherein the master controller is not directly connected to the communications network, ~~the networked EGM installation comprising~~

<u>ii.)</u>   jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established<u>;</u>[[,]] and

<u>iii.)</u>   communications means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to a master controller, the gaming activity report comprising<u>:</u>

<u>A.)</u>   a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report,

<u>and wherein</u> the EGM installation ~~maintaining~~ <u>maintains</u> a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and the prize pool being periodically updated in response to pool information provided from the master controller to the EGM installation via the communications ~~mean~~ <u>means</u> as a batch data transfer in response to gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system of claim 2, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the <u>local</u> jackpot controller monitors EGM operation, determines the occurrence of jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system of claim 3, wherein the front-end processor <u>is</u> <u>adapted to monitor</u> ~~monitors~~ the operation of <u>the</u> local jackpot controller[[,]] and the EGMs in the network<u>ed EGM installation,</u> and gathers statistics for forwarding the master controller in the gaming activity report.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The jackpot system of claim 4, wherein the master controller includes communication means for receiving communications from the front-end processors at each EGM venue and returning prize pool information to each EGM venue.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The jackpot system of claim 3 adapted so that, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The jackpot system of claim 3 adapted so that, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The jackpot system of claim 7 adapted so that, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is transmitted over a publicly accessible communication network the internet.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The jackpot system of claim 3 adapted so that, wherein communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system of claim 3 <u>adapted so that,</u> ~~wherein~~ communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on recordable media.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system of claim 10 <u>adapted so that,</u> ~~wherein~~ communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a magnetic media.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system of claim 11 <u>adapted so that,</u> ~~wherein~~ communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via floppy disc.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system of claim 11, ~~wherein~~ <u>adapted so that</u> communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via magnetic tape.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system claimed in claim 3, wherein the front-end processor <u>is adapted to communicate</u> ~~communicates~~ with a security system, to indicate the identity of each EGM on which a jackpot has been won, the security system including a security video camera, and the security system being responsive to ~~the~~ <u>an</u> indication of the identity of each winning EGM to direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the respective winning EGM.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the <u>plurality of EGM</u> venues participating in the ~~multiple venue~~ jackpot system, and means for calculating <u>a</u> jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at <u>each of</u> the respective venues.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The <u>jackpot</u> system claimed in claim 15 <u>adapted so that,</u> ~~wherein~~ gaming machine activity at each venue is reported to the master controller by the respective front-end processor.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A master controller for a jackpot system for providing jackpots on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) operating in a plurality of EGM venues, each EGM venue having<u>:</u>

    <u>a.)</u> a networked EGM installation including one or more EGMs connected via <u>a</u> communications network to a network controller<u>;</u>[[,]]

    <u>b.)</u> jackpot awarding means arranged to award jackpot prizes to individual EGMs based on a predetermined trigger condition being established<u>;</u>[[,]] and

    <u>c.)</u> reporting means arranged to periodically initiate a gaming activity report and communicate the gaming activity report to the master controller, the gaming activity report comprising<u>:</u>

        <u>i.)</u> a batch of gaming data representing gaming activity and jackpot events occurring on the respective networked EGM installation during a period of operation preceding the initiation of the report,

and wherein the master controller ~~being~~ is located remotely from at least one of the EGM venues, and wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue ~~maintaining~~ maintains a prize pool from which jackpot prizes are awarded, and wherein the master controller ~~collecting~~ collects game statistics from the gaming activity report communicated from each venue and periodically ~~communicating~~ communicates batch data information to each of the EGM venues in response to the gaming activity reports received by the master controller from each of the EGM venues to update the prize pool of each EGM installation.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 17, wherein the EGM installation in each EGM venue further includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the front-end processor monitors the operation of the local jackpot controller[[,]] and the EGMs in the ~~network~~ networked EGM installation and gathers statistics for forwarding to the master controller and wherein the master controller further includes communications means for receiving communications from the front-end processors at each EGM venue and for returning prize pool information to each venue.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 18, ~~wherein~~ adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 18, ~~wherein~~ adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 20, wherein adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is transmitted over a publicly accessible communication network the internet.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 18, wherein adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data reports printed on paper.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 18, wherein adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recorded on a recordable media.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 23, wherein further adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a magnetic media.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The master controller system of claim 24 wherein, adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via floppy disc.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The master controller system of claim 24 wherein, adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via magnetic tape.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The master controller ~~system as claimed in~~ of claim 18 wherein, the master controller further includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for [[a]] calculating a jackpot pool for each venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The master controller ~~system as claimed in~~ of claim 27 ~~wherein,~~ further adapted so that gaming machine activity at each EGM venue is reported to the master controller by the respective front-end processor.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the networked EGM installation in each EGM venue includes a local jackpot controller and a front-end processor, such that the jackpot controller monitors EGM operation, determines the occurrence of a jackpot trigger condition, maintains the prize pool information, and awards prizes from the prize pool when trigger condition occurs.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The system of claim 29, ~~wherein~~ further adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is encrypted.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The system of claim 29, ~~wherein~~ further adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The system of claim 29, wherein further adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The system of claim 29, wherein further adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recordable media.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the front-end processor communicates is adapted to communicate with a security system, to indicate the identity of each EGM on which a jackpot has been won, the security system including a security video camera, and the security system being responsive to the an indication of the identity of each winning EGM to direct the field of view of security video cameras to the area of the respective winning EGM.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the EGM venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating a jackpot pool for each EGM venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 19, wherein adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via e-mail.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 19, wherein adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via reports printed on paper.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The master controller of claim 19, wherein adapted so that communication between the front-end processor and the master controller is via data recorded on a recordable media.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The system as claimed in of claim 19, wherein the master controller includes an accounting system for gathering accounting information from each of the EGM venues participating in the multiple venue jackpot system, and means for a calculating a jackpot pool for each EGM venue based on gaming machine activity at the respective venues.